

Please replace the last full paragraph of page 195 with the following:

- Evaluation of Inhibitors and Inactivators: The inhibition constants (K_i) for the competitive inhibitors Ac-D-(D-Gla)-L-I-(Cha)-C-OH (27; SEQ ID NO: 2), Ac-DTEDVVA(Nva)-OH (SEQ ID NO: 3) and Ac-DTEDVVP(Nva)-OH (SEQ ID NO: 4) were determined experimentally at fixed concentrations of enzyme and substrate by plotting v_o/v_i vs. inhibitor concentration ($[I]_o$) according to the rearranged Michaelis-Menten equation for competitive inhibition kinetics: $v_o/v_i = 1 + [I]_o / (K_i (1 + [S]_o / K_m))$, where v_o is the uninhibited initial velocity, v_i is the initial velocity in the presence of inhibitor at any given inhibitor concentration ($[I]_o$) and $[S]_o$ is the substrate concentration used. The resulting data were fitted using linear regression and the resulting slope, $1/(K_i(1+[S]_o/K_m))$, was used to calculate the K_i value.- -

Please replace the second full paragraph of page 197 with the following:

- - The BFP-5A/5B-GFP reporter gene contains the BFP and GFP autofluorescent protein coding sequences (Quantum Biotechnologies, Inc., Montreal, Canada) separated by the NS5A/5B cleavage recognition sequence, cloned between the Nhe I and Bam HI restriction endonuclease sites of the pQBI25 cloning vector (Quantum Biotechnologies, Inc.). Expression of the fusion protein is under the control of the CMV IE promoter-enhancer. The bovine growth hormone p (A) sequence of the vector provides the polyadenylation signal for the mRNA. The NS5A/5B cleavage sequence is: SSGADTEDVVCCSMSYTWGTGALVTP (SEQ ID NO: 5). DNA sequencing was used to validate the clone.- -

Respectfully submitted,

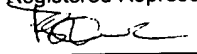


Dr. Palaiyur S. Kalyanaraman
Reg. No. 34,634
April 22, 2002

Schering-Plough Corporation
Patent Department K-6-1, 1990
2000 Galloping hill Road
Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033
Tel: 908-298-5068
Fax: 908-298-5388

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Palaiyur S. Kalyanaraman
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